GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2819
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
IMPORT OF FOOD ITEMS WITHOUT PRESCRIBED CHECKS
Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food items are being imported in the country without prescribed checks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) No Sir. The import of any food article is governed under Sections 5 and 6 of the PFA Act, 1954 and section 6(2) of PFA Act provides that such clearance of any imported food articles is the responsibility of the Customs Collectors or their authorized officers. For clearance of consignments of imported foods, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, has framed the procedure for 100% testing before clearance. In cases where the samples are found to be conforming to the standards for first five consecutive consignments of each food items imported by individual importer, there is a provision for clearance of consignment of food articles on the basis of 5 to 20% random testing.